

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 253-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: September 24, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the printed name of the City Manager.

Subject: MIDDLE DISTRICT BURGLARIES

This Letter to the City Commission is to provide information on the recent burglaries to residences in the City's middle district and outline the police department's response plan.

There have been eleven residential burglaries in the area between Dade Boulevard and 63rd street from September 3rd through September 23rd. The Police Department is addressing this trend through proactive measures including an increased uniform police presence during each shift overlap period, crime suppression teams conducting undercover surveillance details throughout the area, increased traffic enforcement, and a detailed follow-up investigation of each of these crimes. District detectives and patrol officers are also randomly checking construction sites for permits, proper licensing, and completing criminal history checks on all employees on site.

Attached is a Middle District Advisory prepared by the Crime Prevention Unit which is being sent to all the neighborhood homeowners associations.

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Crime Prevention Unit

Middle District Advisory
(Update# Two) 09/23/04

The purpose of this bulletin is to alert residents of criminal activity in their neighborhood. There have been eleven residential burglaries in the area between Dade Boulevard and 63rd Street from September 3rd through September 23rd. The following is a breakdown of these crimes, by neighborhood.

Three Burglaries in the LaGorce/Pinetree Drive area:

- 09/08/04 5200 block LaGorce Drive, afternoon hours
- 09/21/04 6300 block Pinetree Drive, daytime hours.
- 09/21/04 5400 block Pinetree Drive, afternoon hours.

Four Burglaries in the North Bay Road/Alton Road Area:

- 09/13/04 5600 block North Bay Road, daytime hours.
- 09/03/04 2100 block of North Bay Road, nighttime hours.
- 09/05/04 5200 block of North Bay Road (Attempt).
- 09/22/04 2700 block of North Bay Road, afternoon hours.

Two Burglaries in the Lakeview Drive Area:

- 09/17/04 700 block of Lakeview Drive, daytime hours.
- 09/22/04 800 block of Lakeview Drive, afternoon hours.

One burglary in the Venetian Islands Area:

- 09/22/04 100 block of 1st Terrace, nighttime hours.

One burglary in the Sunset Islands Area:

- 09/23/04 2800 block of Lucerne Ave, daytime hours.

The Police Department is addressing this trend through proactive measures which include an increased uniformed police presence, traffic enforcement, proactive undercover details around the clock, and a detailed follow-up investigation of each of these crimes.

The following is a list of crime prevention tips that residents should follow to avoid becoming victims of crime:

- Set alarms when leaving homes, even if it is for a short period of time. **DO NOT** by-pass any zones. **DO NOT** cancel police response when contacted by alarm companies, specifically when not at home.
- **Analysis has shown several burglaries have occurred in homes, in which burglary alarms have not been activated.**
- If you hear a neighbor's alarm, contact the police and be aware of possible suspects or vehicles in the area.
- Secure all windows and doors including those on the second floor.
- Secure all pet entrances at night and when not at home.
- Secure all exterior gate doors leading into your property with a lock.
- **DO NOT** leave driveway gates and garage doors open and unattended.
- **DO NOT** leave any items that could be used to access an upper floor window or door lying around your property (e.g., ladders, buckets, crates, stacked bricks, etc.).
- Consider storing any jewelry of personal value that is not used regularly in a safety deposit box or home safe.
- For those residents with safes in their homes, have the safe anchored properly to the home's structure as opposed to a movable structure (i.e. furniture, shelving, cabinets).

NEW TECHNOLOGY: A cellular backup system is now being used with some alarm companies. The cellular backup still allows for the monitoring company to be notified if conventional phone lines are cut. This has been done in several of the listed burglaries.

Your District Detectives and Patrol Officers are randomly checking construction sites for permits, proper licensing, and completing criminal history checks on all employees on site. It would be immensely helpful for residents to hire only licensed contractors as we have had problems in the past with unlicensed laborers.

For additional crime prevention tips or to schedule a home security survey, please contact the Miami Beach Police Department at (305) 673-7813.